The Origins and Development of the English Language Chapter 5: The Old English Period, Part 2

John Algeo

Michael Cheng
National Chengchi University

Features of Old English: Quick Overview

- OE is a *synthetic* language; it uses case endings and other inflections to mark syntax
- n,v,adj,det, and pronouns all heavily inflected
- weak and strong declensions of nouns and adjs
- weak and strong conjugations of verbs
- Gmc vocab; 85% is no longer in use in MnE
- words form from compounds, prefixing and suffixing; little borrowing
- gender was grammatical, not natural

Sounds of Old English

- r is trilled
- sc is pronounced sh, /š/
  - disc > dish
- cg is pronounced dj or / ǰ/
  - ecg > edge
- • f, þ, ð, s could be voiced or voiceless
- • hw, gn, kn all pronounced: hwaet, gnaw,
- cneo, ‘knee’

- Unlike MnE, OE has high, front, rounded vowels:
  - yrre, ‘angry
  - ystig, ‘stormy’

OE Gender is Grammatical

- wif, neuter
- mann, masculine
- wifmann, ‘woman,’ is masculine
- natural gender begins replacing grammatical gender as inflections are lost

OE Inflection: The Cases of Nouns

- nominative
- accusative
- genitive
- dative
- instrumental

A simple OE noun declension for *fisc*, ‘fish’

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	*fisc*	*fiscas*
Accusative	*fisc*	*fiscas*
Genitive	*fisces*	*fisca/fiscana*
Dative	*fisce*	*fiscum*
Instrumental	*fisce*	*fiscum*

Adjectives have declensions too
good man

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	*god guma*	*gode guman*
Accusative	*godne guman*	*gode guman*
Genitive	*godes guman*	*godra guman*
Dative	*godum guman*	*godum guman*

OE Personal Pronouns

	singular	dual	plural
first person	I	we two	we
N	*ic*	*wit*	*wē*
A	*mec, mē*	*unc, uncit*	*usic, us*
G	*mīn*	*uncer*	*user, ure*
D	*mē*	*unc*	*ūs*

	singular	dual	plural
second person	you	you two	you
N	*ðū*	*git*	*g*ē
A	*ðec, þē*	*inc, incit*	*ēowic, ēow*
G	*ðin*	*incer*	*ēower*
D	*ðē*	*inc*	*ēow*

Third person: he, it, she, they

	Masc	Neu	Fem	Plural
N	*hē*	*hit*	*hēo, hīe*	*hēo, hīe*
A	*hine*	*hit*	*hēo, hīe*	*hēo, hīe*
G	*his*	*his*	*hire*	*hira, heora*
D	*him*	*him*	*hire*	*him, heom*

Phonology and Orthography

OE Alphabet

Letter	Sound(s)	Example	Gloss
a	a	stānn	‘stone’
b	b	bæð	‘bath’
c	k (tʃ)	cald	‘cold’
d	d	dōð	‘do’ (imperative)
e	e (ɛ)	hēr	‘here’
f	f (v)	fæst	‘fast’
g	g (j, ɤ)	glæd	‘shining, gracious’
h	h (x, ç)	hālig	‘holy’
i	i (ɪ)	tīd	‘time’
l	l	līnen	‘linen’

OE Alphabet

Spelling	Sound(s)	Example	Gloss
m	m	mete	‘food’
n	n (ŋ)	nacod	‘naked’
o	o (ɔ)	tōð	‘tooth’
p	p	pæð	‘path’
r	r	r̄ipan	‘to reap’
s	s (z)	stēap	‘high, steep, deep’
t	t	tam	‘tame’
u	u (ʊ)	fūl	‘foul, vile’
y	ü	synn	‘sin’

OE Alphabet: Different letters

Spelling	Sound(s)	Example	Gloss
Æ, æ (ash)	æ	æsc	'ash'
P, *p* (wynn)	w	*p*ī̆se (wī̆se)	'wise'
Þ, þ (thorn)	θ, ð	þing	'thing'
Ð, ð (eth, crossed 'd')	θ, ð	bæð	'bath'
ȝ (yogh)	g (j, ɤ)	ȝēar (gēar)	'year'
sc	ʃ	scēap	'sheep'
cg	dʒ	edg	'edge'

OE Spelling and Pronunciation

- OE is very phonetic
- No silent letters in OE
  - hwat ‘what’
  - cnēow ‘knee’
  - gnǣt ‘gnat’
- No “standard”
  - scield, scild, scyld

ç

x ɣ

OE Phonemes: Consonants

Manner of Articulation	Voicing	Place of Articulation							
		bilabial	labiodental	interdental	alveolar	palato-alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
stops	–V	p			t			k	
	+V	b			d			g	
nasals	+V	m			n				
fricatives	–V		f	θ	s	ʃ (š)		h	
affricates	–V					tʃ (č)			
	+V					dʒ (ǰ)			
liquids	+V				l	r(ɹ)			
glides	+V	w							
flaps	+V								

OE Allophones of /f/

[v] Between voiced sounds		[f] Everywhere else	
hræfn	‘raven’	fæst	‘fast’
æfre	‘ever’	lēaf	‘leaf’
		sceaft	‘shaft’
		NB: pyffan	‘to puff’

OE Allophones of /θ/

[ð] Between voiced sounds		[θ] Everywhere else	
ōðer	‘other’	wiþ	‘with’
cweþan	‘to speak’	ðunor	‘thunder’
		NB: smiððe	‘smithy’

OE Allophones of /s/

[z] Between voiced sounds		[s] Everywhere else	
wīsa	‘leader’	wīs	‘wise’
rīsan	‘to rise’	fæst	‘fast’
		sōþ	‘sooth’
		NB: kyssan	‘to kiss’

OE Allophones of /n/

[ŋ] Before velar stops	[n] Everywhere else
singan ‘to sing’	sendan ‘to send’
hæðung ‘heating’	þunor ‘thunder’

OE Allophones of /k/

[tʃ] Next to a front vowel		[k] Everywhere else	
sprǣc	‘speech’	cwæþ	‘speech’
ceaster	‘chester’	clǣne	‘clean’
benc	‘bench’	cū	‘cow’
		NB: sticca	‘stick’

- or where there used to be a front vowel

- bēc from bōci = books (lost in ModE)
- sēcan from sōcyan = seek as in beseech
- swylc from swylic = such
- ælc from ælic = each
- hwylc from hwylic = which

- Paul Meier IPA charts
- http://www.paulmeier.com/ipacharts/
- http://www.paulmeier.com/consonants/
- http://www.paulmeier.com/vowels/

OE Allophones of /g/

[j] Next to front vowels	[ɣ] Between back vowels; after l, r	[g] Everywhere else
gīet ‘yet’	sagu ‘saw’	græs ‘grass’
gēar ‘year’	fylgan ‘to follow’	glēsan ‘to gloss’
manig ‘many’	beorg ‘barrow’	gān ‘to go’
NB: affixes ge-, -ig		gyltig ‘guilty’

(h before vowels and l, r, n *hnappian*, w *hwīt*)

OE Allophones of /h/

[x] After back vowels	[ç] After front vowels	[h] Everywhere else
leoht ‘light’	miht ‘might’	hām ‘home’
þurh ‘through’	sihð ‘sight’	hring ‘ring’
hēah ‘high’	cniht ‘boy’	hlāf ‘loaf’

Consonants with allophones

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n			(ŋ)	
Stop	p b		t d	tʃ (dʒ)		k g	
Fricative	f (v)	θ (ð)	s (z)	ʃ	(ç)	(x) (ɣ)	h
Approximant			r[1]		j	w	
Lateral			l				

OE Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	ü *mȳs* ‘mice’ i *īs* ‘ice’		u *hūs* ‘house’
	ɪ *hit* ‘it’		ʊ *hund* ‘dog’
Mid	e *spēd* ‘luck’		o *sōθ* ‘truth’
	ɛ *wel* ‘well’		ɔ *folc* ‘folk’
Low	æ *læst* ‘last’		ɑ *hlāf* ‘loaf’

Length in OE

- Consonants
  - bed ‘prayer’
    bedd ‘bed’
  - fȳlan ‘to befoul’
    fȳllan ‘to fill’

- Vowels
  - æt [æt] ‘at’
    ǣt [æ:t] ‘ate’
  - fæt [fæt] ‘vessel, utensil’
    fǣt [fæ:t] ‘gold ornament’
  - ran [ran] ‘ran’
    rān [ra:n] ‘roebuck (pl)’

Marking of length

- In OE: double letter
- IPA: colon (:)
- Edited texts:
  - Macron (ā)
  - Double letter
  - Acute accent (á)

OE Diphthongs

- ea æ + a heall ‘hall’
- eo e + o hēold ‘hold’
- ie i + e hīeran ‘hearken, hear’

OE Dipthongs (later)

- *ēa* [æ:+ə] bēatan ‘beat’
- *ēo* [e:+ə] crēopan ‘creep’
- *ea* [æ+ə] eall ‘all’, geard ‘yard’, seah ‘saw
- *eo* [ɛ+ə] eoh ‘horse’, meolc ‘milk’, weorc ‘work’

Practice

OE	1st	2nd	PDE
1. gold	g j ɣ		
2. dysig	s z	g j ɣ	
3. bohte	h ç x		
4. cēacbān	k č (tʃ)	k č (tʃ)	
5. hæfde	f v		
6. hwæðer	h ç x	θ ð	
7. seofan	s z	f v	
8. heorte	h ç x		

Answers

OE	1st	2nd	PDE
1. gold	g j ɣ		g gold
2. dysig	s z	g j ɣ	z j dizzy
3. bohte	h ç x		x bought
4. cēacbān	k č (tʃ)	k č (tʃ)	č k cheekbone
5. hæfde	f v		v had (haved)
6. hwæðer	h ç x	θ ð	h ð whether
7. seofan	s z	f v	s v seven
8. heorte	h ç x		h heart

More Practice

OE	1st	2nd	PDE
9. senden	s z	n ŋ	
10. hlehhan	h ç x	h ç x	
11. cirice	k č (tʃ)	k č (tʃ)	
12. niht	n ŋ	h ç x	
13. grētan	g j ɣ	n ŋ	
14. hring	h ç x	n ŋ	
15. cȳþþ	k č (tʃ)	θ ð	
16. græg	g j ɣ	g j ɣ	

Answers

OE	1st	2nd	PDE
9. senden	s z	n ŋ	s n to send
10. hlehhan	h ç x	h ç x	h ç laugh
11. cirice	k č (tʃ)	k č (tʃ)	č č church
12. niht	n ŋ	h ç x	n ç night
13. grētan	g j ɣ	n ŋ	g n to greet
14. hring	h ç x	n ŋ	h ŋ ring
15. cyþþ	k č (tʃ)	θ ð	k θ kith
16. græg	g j ɣ	g j ɣ	g j grey

Identify the following words

OE
1. calfian
2. cild
3. sæd
4. þæt
5. fyr
6. scēap
7. calf
8. brycg
9. þæc
10. æfter

OE
11. þorn
12. geong
13. glǣm
14. hǣþen
15. cēap
16. offrian
17. ofer
18. scip
19. wīf
20. cāsere

OE
21. wifel
22. ðing
23. græs
24. gield
25. dīc
26. clēofan
27. prēost
28. cwēn
29. cēosan
30. weorþe

Exercise II: OE Sounds

Using your knowledge of OE phonology, identify the following words.

OE	PDE
1. calfian	to calve
2. cild	child
3. sæd	sad
4. þæt	that
5. fyr	fire
6. scēap	sheep
7. calf	calf
8. brycg	bridge
9. þæc	thatch
10. æfter	after

OE	PDE
11. þorn	thorn
12. geong	young
13. glǣm	gleam
14. hǣþen	heathen
15. cēap	cheap
16. offrian	offer
17. ofer	over
18. scip	ship
19. wīf	wife
20. cāsere	kaiser

OE	PDE
21. wifel	weevil
22. ðing	thing
23. græs	grass
24. gield	yield
25. dīc	ditch
26. clēofan	to cleave
27. prēost	priest
28. cwēn	queen
29. cēosan	to choose
30. weorþe	worthy

The Lord's Prayer in Old English

Matthew 6:9-13.

1. Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;	1. Father our thou that art in heavens
2. Si þin nama gehalgod	2. be thy name hallowed
3. to becume þin rice	3. come thy kingdom
4. gewurþe ðin willa	4. be-done thy will
5. on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.	5. on earth as in heaven
6. surne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg	6. our daily bread give us today
7. and forgyf us ure gyltas	7. and forgive us our sins
8. swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum	8. as we forgive those-who-have-sinned-against-us
9. and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge	9. and not lead thou us into temptation
10. ac alys us of yfele soþlice	10. but deliver us from evil. truly.

- This version of the Lord's Prayer is from Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 140 [WSCp], a translation of the Gospels written in Bath in the first half of the 11th century; edited by Liuzza (1994). Read by Cathy Ball (Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University) for Edward Vanetten's Sunday School class.

Vocabulary

OE Borrowings (Celts)

Place names

Thames
Dover
London
Cornwall
Carlisle

Geographic terms

Water, river	*avon, exe, esk, usk, dover, wye*
Hill	*barr, bredon, bryn, creech, pendle*
Deep valley	*combe*
High rock	*torr, tor*
Tidal creek	*pylle, pill*
Badger	*brocc, brock*

OE Borrowings (Romans, pre-English)

War

camp	'battle'
sǣgn	'banner'
strǣt	'road, street'
mīl	'mile'

Wine Trade

wīn	'wine'
must	'new wine'
eced	'vinegar'
flasce	'flask, bottle'

Trade

cēap	'bargain'
mangian	'trade'
mangere	'monger'
pund	'pound'

Domestic Life

cytel	'kettle'
mēse	'table'
scamol	'bench'
sigel	'brooch'

OE Borrowings (Romans, pre-English)

Food

cīese	'cheese'
spelt	'wheat'
pipor	'pepper'
senep	'mustard'
cisten	'chestnut'
butere	'butter'
ynne	'onion'
plūme	'plum'
pise	'pea'
minte	'mint'

Buildings

cealc	'chalk'
copor	'copper'
pic	'pitch'
tigele	'tile'

Others

mūl	'mule'
draca	'dragon'
pāwa	'peacock'
pīpe	'instrument'
biscop	'bishop'
cāsere	'emperor'
sæternesdæg	'Saturday'

OE Borrowings (Romans, Celts)

Place names

ceaster	'camp'
port	'harbor, gate, town'
munt	'mountain'
torr	'tower, rock'
wīc	'village'

Others

candel	'candle'
cest	'chest'
earc	'ark'
mægester	'master'
mynster	'monastery'
peru	'pear'
sealm	'psalm'
cros	'cross'

OE Borrowings (Romans, Early Christian)

Religious

abbod	'abbot'
ælmesse	'alms'
engel	'angel'
arc	'ark'
candel	'candle'
cugele	'cowl'
discipul	'disciple'
ymen	'hymn'
martyr	'martyr'
nōn	'noon'
organa	'organ'
palma	'palm'
psealma	'psalm'

Domestic Life

socc	'sock'
seolc	'silk'
purpuran	'purple'
cemes	'shirt'
bēte	'beet'
peru	'pear'
ostre	'oyster'
pīn	'pine'
lilium	'lily'
mealwe	'mallow'
plantian	'plant'

Others

scōl	'school
magister	'master'
fers	'verse'
mēter	'meter'
ancor	'anchor'
fēfer	'fever'
spongia	'sponge'
talente	'talent'
fenix	'phoenix'

OE Borrowings (Romans, Benedictine Reform)

Religious	
alb	'alb'
antichrist	'antichrist'
apostol	'apostle'
canticle	'canticle'
crisma	'chrism'
crēda	'creed'
dalmatice	'dalmatic'
prīm	'prime'
sabat	'sabbath'

Nature	
gingifer	'ginger'
periwince	'periwinkle'
petersilie	'parsley'
camel	'camel'
tiger	'tiger'

Others	
titul	'title'
plastrum	'plaster'

- Second half of 10th century, better educated clergy, built new churches, established schools, copying of English and Latin manuscripts

OE Borrowings (Early Scandinavian)

Sea & Battle

barda	'beaked ship'
cnearr	'warship'
scegþa	'vessel'
liþ	'fleet'
dreng	'warrior'
hā	'oarlock'
bātswegen	'boatswain'
orrest	'battle'
rān	'robbery'

Social, Admin

lagu	'law'
ūtlagu	'outlaw'
māl	'action at law'
hūsting	'assembly'
wapentake	'district'

Translations

bōtlēas	'what cannot be compensated'
hāmsōcn	'attacking the enemy in his house'
lahcēap	'payment for reenty into lost legal rights'
landcēap	'tax paid when land was bought'

OE Borrowings (Later Scandinavian)

Daily life

band
bank
birth
bull
die
dirt
down
egg
fellow
guess
kid
leg
loan
root
sister
skirt
sky
steak
thrift
want

Names

-by 'farm, town'
-thorp 'village'
-thwaite 'isolated'
-toft 'piece of ground'
-son 'son of'

Others

bothe 'both'
sum 'some'
ālopt 'aloft'
semely 'seemly'

earun 'are'
they, their, them
hī, hiera, him

OE Borrowings (Later Scandinavian):

What happened with similar words?

English

ON	OE
skel	*sciell*
screde	*scrēade*
geit	*gāt*
hvel	*hwēol*

Both kept

ON	OE
nei	*nā*
reisa	*rǣran*
skinn	*hȳd*
skrækja	*shriken*

Scandinavian

ON	OE
awe	*ege*
egg	*ǣg*
syster	*sweostor*
lān	*lǣn*

Collapsed to one

ON	OE
fastr	*fæst*
myrkr	*mirce*
skrapa	*scrapian*

Is a word English or Scandinavian?

Sound differences

OE [ʃ]	ON [sk]
'shirt'	'skirt'
'fish'	'whisk'

OE [o:]	ON [e:]
'no'	'nay'
'hole'	'hale'

OE [j]	OE [g]
'yield'	'guild'

OE [tʃ]	OE [k]
'ditch'	'dike'

Meaning differences

OE	ON 'bloom'
'ingot'	'flower'

OE	ON 'gift'
'wife-price'	'present'

OE	ON 'plow'
'measure of land'	'agricultural tool'

OE Semantic Shift

Broadening

flicorian

OE to move wings, to flutter
PDE movement of light
PDE emotion

barn

OE place to store barley
PDE agricultural building

aunt

OE father's sister
PDE either parents' sister

Narrowing

wǣd

OE any garment
PDE mourning clothes

wēod

OE herbs and grass in general
PDE unwanted plants

swǣtan

OE to **ex**ude liquid
PDE to **ex**ude water

OE Semantic Shift

Amelioration

prættig
- OE tricky, sly, wily
- PDE attractive

fond
- OE foolish
- PDE affectionate

cniht
- OE boy
- ME man-at-arms
- PDE honorable military rank

Pejoration

sælig
- OE happy, prosperous
- ME naïve
- PDE foolish

crǣftig
- OE skillful, strong, learned
- ME strength, skill
- PDE skill, skilled in deception

wencel
- OE girl
- PDE lewd woman, prostitute

OE Semantic Change

Shift

clūd

OE rock, hill
PDE vapor in the atmosphere

gebed

OE, ME prayer
EME rosary beads
PDE bead

tīwesdæg, wōdnesdæg,
ðunrsdæg, frīgedæg

Result of one shift…

hors

OE equine

stēda

OE uncastrated male horse
EME spirited war horse

stalion

ME uncastrated male horse

OE Compounds

Two elements

sunbēam ‘sunbeam’

dēadboren ‘still born’

hwælweg ‘sea’

bōchord ‘library’

bōccræft ‘literature’

dimhūs ‘prison’

Three elements

winterrædingbōc
‘winter lectionary’

biterwyrtdrenc
‘drink of bitter herbs’

Note:

- ≠ Verb-Adverb
- ≠ Noun-Verb
- ≠ Verb-Verb

OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss	PDE
æfter-		æftercweþende	'those speaking after'	afterdinner
fore-	earlier, front	foresprecan	'say before'	foresee, foreleg
mis-	bad, wrong	misdǣd	'misdeed'	misjudge, misshapen
ofer-	exceed, excessive	ofergān	'overrun'	overcook, overexcite
un-	negative	unlȳtel	'no little, great'	undecided, ungraceful
	bad, evil	unweder	'bad weather'	N/A
under-	below	undercyning	'under king'	underarm, underbrush
ūp-	higher	ūprodor	'heaven above'	upbeat, upgrade
ūt-	exceed	ūtgong	'exidus'	outbid, outdance
	away from	ūtādrīfan	'drive out'	outhouse, outlaw

OE Derivational Morphology: Lost Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss
el-	strange, foreign	elland	'foreign country'
ge-	special meaning	gegān	'conquer'
	together	gebrōdor	'monk'
	N from V	genīp	'darkness'
	A from V	gehlystan	'sense of hearing'
of-	perfective	ofslēan	'to slay, destroy'
on-	beginning	onbærnan	'kindle'
or-	deprivative	orsorg	'without care'
	original	oreald	'of great age'
sam-	half, absence	samboren	'premature'
wan-	negative	wan-hāl	'ill, not hale'
ymb-	around	ymbfaran	'surround'

OE Derivational Morphology: Frozen Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss	PDE
ā-	perfective prefix	āscamian	'to have been shamed'	await, arise, ago
be-	about, near	begān	'to surround'	beside
	deprive	behēafdian	'to behead'	behead
for-	intensifier	forbēodan	'forbid'	forgive, forget
forþ-	onward	forþbringan	'to bring forth'	forthcoming
tō-	toward	tōcyme	'arrival'	together, toward
	separation	tōdrīfan	'drive apart'	today, tomorrow
þurh-	into and out of	þurhwadan	'pierce, pass through'	throughout
wið-	against, from	wiþcēosan	'reject'	withhold; withdraw

OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss	PDE
-dōm	office, state	frēodōm	'freedom'	kingdom, freedom
-en	made of, like	gylden	'golden'	earthen, ashen
-ere	agentive N	bōcere	'scholar'	singer, dancer
-full	characterized by	sinfull	'sinful'	awful, powerful
-hād	state, condition	cildhād	'childhood'	falsehood, motherhood
-ig	characterized by	sǣlig	'silly'	dirty, icy
-ing,-ung	N from V	rǣding	'reading'	sleeping, boating
-isc	characteristic of	cildisc	'childish'	bookish, fortyish

OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Suffixes (continued)

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss	PDE
-lēas	lacking	feohlēas	'moneyless'	faithless, ageless
-lic	resembling	heofonlic	'heavenly'	catlike, verblike
-ling	quality of, small	deorling	'darling'	duckling, yearling
-nes	quality, condition	boerhtnes	'brightness'	happiness, goodness
-þ(o)	makes N	geogoþ	'youth'	length, depth
-scipe	state, quality	frēondscipe	'friendship'	citizenship, dealership
-sum	characterized by	wynnsum	'delightful'	awesome, worrisome

OE Derivational Morphology: Lost Suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Gloss
-a	agentive	eardstapa	'earthstepper'
-aþ, oþ	N from V	fiscoþ	'fishing'
-bora	agentive	mundbora	'protector'
-end	agentive	hǣlend	'healer'
-ing	son of	Æþelwulfing	'son of Æþelwulf'
	associated with	hōring	'adulterer'
-mǣl	measured by	fōtmǣl	'foot length'
	mark, sign	fȳrmǣl	'firemark'
-rǣden	abstract Ns	hierdrǣden	'guard, guardian'
-sian	V from N, A	clǣsian	'to clean'
-ettan	V from N, A	lāþettan	'to hate, loathe'
-lǣcan	V from N, A	ānlǣcan	'to unite'

Exercise: OE Affixes

Using your knowledge of OE affixes, figure out the meaning of these OE words

OE word	Meaning of the root
geoguþhād	geoguþ 'youth'
sambærned	bærn 'burn'
wansped	sped 'luck, prosperity'
elþeod	þeod 'people'
ymbhweorfan	hweorfan 'move, turn'
mildheortnes	mildheort 'merciful'
deofollic	deofol 'devil'
modig	mod 'courage'
fahþu	fah 'hostile'
leasung	leasian 'to lie'
stānen	stān 'stone'

Exercise: OE Affixes

Using your knowledge of OE affixes, figure out the meaning of these OE words.

OE word	Meaning of the root	PDE translation
geoguþhād	geoguþ 'youth'	'youthhood'
sambærned	bærn 'burn'	'half-burnt'
wansped	sped 'luck, prosperity'	'ill-luck, poverty'
elþeod	þeod 'people'	'strangers'
ymbhweorfan	hweorfan 'move, turn'	'revolve'
mildheortnes	mildheort 'merciful'	'mercifulness'
deofollic	deofol 'devil'	'devil-ly, diabolical'
modig	mod 'courage'	'bold'
fahþu	fah 'hostile'	'hostility'
leasung	leasian 'to lie'	'a lie, lying'
stānen	stān 'stone'	'made of stone'

OE Loss

Cultural Change

dolgbōt	'compensation for wounding'
þeox	'hunting spear'
eafor	'tenant obligation to the king to convey goods'
flȳtme	'blood letting instrument'

Norman Conquest

More later…

OE Lexicon:
Word formation processes not used

- Blends
- Calques (loan-translation)
- Eponyms
- Generification
- Folk etymology
- Functional shift
- Shortening (Clipping, Acronym, Initialism)
- Stress shift

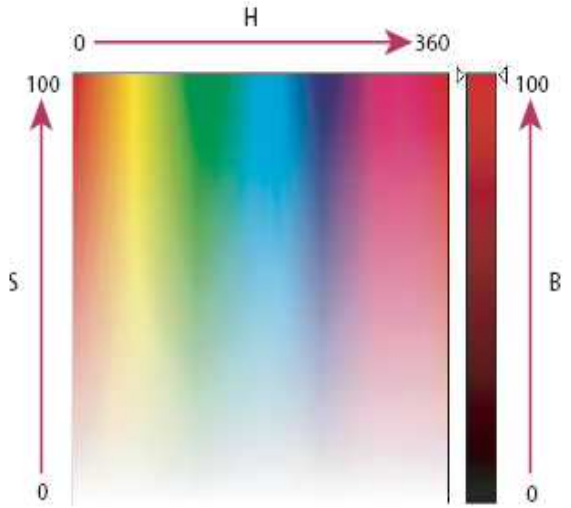
OE Lexicon: Composition

- OE is very Germanic
- 65%-85% loss
- Misleading…

	English	French	Latin	Other
100	96%	0%	0%	4%
1000	83%	11%	2%	4%
2nd 1000	34%	46%	11%	9%
3rd 1000	29%	46%	14%	11%
4th 1000	27%	45%	17%	11%
5th 1000	27%	47%	17%	9%

OE Color terms

- Five basic dimensions of color
  - –Hue gradation of color
  - –Saturation vividness
  - –Brightness intensity of color
  - –Luster reflection of light
  - –Scintillation sparkling



OE Color Terms

Saturation

fealu	'dusky'
dunn	'dingy'
hasu	'ashen'
hār	'hoary'
wann	'dark'

Luster

lēoma	'gleam'
glæd	'shining'
bl*ī*can	'glitter'
lȳman	'shine'
brūn	'metallic shine'

Brightness

scīr	'bright'
beorht	'bright'
torht	'bright'
scīma	'brightness

Scintillation

sprican	'sparkle'
scimerian	'shimmer'
blēobrygd	'scintillation'
brigd	'play of color'
tȳtan	'sparkle'